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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
TUESDAY AUGUST 10, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Patriarch blames Reuters for 'exaggerated' reporting -  
Milliyet  
Al-Qaeda may stage 'limousine' attacks - Aksam  
Rice's tough message on Iran - Aksam  
Rice signals 'liberation' of Iran - Sabah  
Mullahs hunt 'free' women in Iran - Milliyet  
Sadr defies Allawi - Aksam  
360 Sadr militants killed in Najaf - Milliyet  
Greek naval commander invites Turkish counterpart to  
Olympics - Hurriyet  
Heavy US pressure forces Sharon to halt security wall -  
Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

Religious minorities want concessions - Cumhuriyet  
OSCE to observe US Presidential polls - Cumhuriyet  
US threatens Iran - Yeni Safak  
Tension rising between Washington, Tehran - Cumhuriyet  
Moktada es-Sadr takes Basra - Yeni Safak  
45 NATO officers to Iraq next week - Zaman  
Egypt, Hamas agree on Gaza - Yeni Safak  
Eurocorps take over ISAF command - Radikal

#### BRIEFING

US wary of sending F-16s to Incirlik: "Sabah's new Ankara  
bureau chief, Asli Aydintasbas, writes today that the US  
Administration may shelve plans for transferring 48 F-16  
jetfighters currently deployed in Germany to Turkey's  
Incirlik Airbase. The US Global Force Posture Review, a  
restructuring of US forces worldwide, had been discussed  
during the visit of U/S State Marc Grossman to Ankara last  
December. Although President Bush was recently advised by  
Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld against deployment of F-

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a6s at Incirlik, some military officials and diplomats still  
believe Incirlik to be the most strategically sound  
alternative, "Sabah" speculates. A high-level US source  
told "Sabah" that the US presence at Incirlik would continue  
regardless of the final decision on F-16s, and noted that  
the final decision would be made by President Bush. Turkish  
military officials want the jetfighters not to be used for  
an attack against another country, and further demand that  
the planes should be used in coordination with the Turkish  
military within the framework of the NATO treaty and the  
bilateral Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA).  
Ankara is uneasy that the F-16s might be used in operations  
in Iraq or against other regional countries in the future,  
"Sabah" claims. Ankara is also unhappy about the existing  
autonomy granted to northern Iraqi Kurdish groups by the US  
provisional authority in Iraq, and the lack of US military  
effectiveness against the PKK presence in the region,  
"Sabah" adds.

Michael Rubin on US/PKK: Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon  
official and an expert on the Middle East at the American  
Enterprise Institute (AEI), told "Hurriyet" in Washington  
that the deputy mayor of Marseille had given large amounts  
of money to the PKK during Saddam's rule in Iraq. Rubin  
also said that some 'unauthorized' US military officials in  
northern Iraq and civilian Americans in Baghdad met with  
representatives of the PKK, but stressed that the US  
Administration has ended all such contacts with the  
organization. Rubin said that despite repeated pledges, the  
US has not displayed any determination on the PKK issue.  
Rubin confirmed that Osman Ocalan turned himself in to US  
military officials in Mosul earlier this year, "Hurriyet"  
reports.

Iraqi President due in Turkey: Iraqi Interim President Ghazi al-Yawar is to visit Turkey next week to discuss security issues following the abductions and killings of Turkish drivers in Iraq, Justice Minister and government spokesman Cemil Cicek said after a weekly cabinet meeting on Monday. "We are trying to take all necessary measures to secure the safety of Turkish citizens in Iraq," Cicek said. Al-Yawar and four Iraqi cabinet ministers are set to visit Ankara August 16-17. Turkish officials estimate that Turkey's exports to Iraq will reach \$1.8 billion in 2004. Several Turkish companies have pulled out of Iraq over the past few weeks because of the security situation.

Hotel bombings in Istanbul: Two bombs exploded at hotels in tourist areas of Istanbul late last night, and another one went off at a liquefied gas plant on the outskirts of the city. Two persons were killed and seven others injured in what was described by officials as an apparent terrorist attack, the Anatolia news agency reported. The blasts occurred almost simultaneously early Tuesday. The nationality of the victims was not immediately known.

Reuters corrects Bartholomeos report: The Reuters news agency on Monday issued a correction to its reporting of comments attributed to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos. The Patriarch said he told Reuters that Turkey would agree to reopen the Halki Seminary, but he denied making reference to "EU pressure" on Turkey to do so. An aide to the Patriarch said the Patriarch's message was that the church enjoyed "unrestricted" freedom of worship in Turkey, but that it also suffered from the absence of financial and administrative independence.

Turkey's minority groups seek "concessions": Turkish Armenian Patriarch Mesrob Mutafyan has sent FM Gul a letter asking for new "arrangements" with regard to the legal status, administration, and property rights of the Armenian Patriarchate, "Cumhuriyet" reports in a front-page story. The paper regards both the controversial remarks made by Patriarch Bartholomeos on the reopening of Halki Seminary and the requests put forward by Mutafyan as a sign of growing pressure by religious minority groups in Turkey to obtain concessions on the eve of the EU summit in December.

Official investigation launched against Diyarbakir mayors: The governor's office in Turkey's mainly Kurdish province of Diyarbakir applied to a prosecutor on Monday to open a case against Diyarbakir mayor Osman Baydemir and four district mayors for paying a visit of condolence to the family of an alleged PKK militant killed in recent fighting with police in the region. Commentators slammed Baydemir for not attending the funeral of a policeman killed in the same clash in late July.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION

"While They Are on Holiday"  
Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (8/10):  
"While the EU, with its commission and parliament, is on holiday, Turkey's accession date issue remains at the top of our agenda. There is a generally positive expectation in Turkey on this issue. Of course, the final test will be the EU progress report, which will be given its final shape by the commission in October. The signals being given by EU diplomatic sources on this issue are very encouraging. Although there are still some concerns about the views of Austria, Denmark, and even France, there is a strongly held opinion here that these countries will not obstruct Turkey's path to the EU. Since all the officials in Brussels and other European capitals are on holiday, no one is paying attention to Turkey's worries at the moment. But activity on this issue will intensify in September, and Turkish diplomacy is preparing a campaign to impress the EU. If starting a public relations campaign abroad is one way to reach the target of EU membership, finalizing the internal reform process at home is another must. We have to express our determination on this issue, not only within the government but also among the Turkish public. Let us then tune out meaningless rumors and intensify our efforts to achieve internal progress and get ready for the big push in Europe."

"Where Do We Stand in the War Against Terrorism?"  
Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative Turkiye (8/10):  
"Where is the super power US today in the war they have started globally against terrorism? The US had to begin this global war following the horrific attacks from Middle East terrorist organizations against the US homeland and its embassies abroad. Even less powerful countries than the United States would have been forced to respond in this way. The US began its response in Afghanistan, by taking on the Taliban, a very primitive and bloody terrorist organization. Then the US occupied Iraq, which was long ago declared as a terrorist country. The occupation of both of these countries went perfectly from the military angle. But the

US began having problems once the military actions were over. The Americans were in countries they didn't know very well. Terrorism, under the leadership of Al-Qaeda, found a convenient home in Iraq and, with the help of some Iraqi opponents of the occupation, started a war against the global power. In order to block support for the US, the terrorist organizations carried out terrorist activities in places like Turkey and Spain. Now the US wants to pass responsibility for Iraq to the UN and NATO. This plan cannot succeed. The US has neither eliminated Al-Qaeda, nor arrested Bin-Laden. Therefore it is inevitable that terrorist activities will spread to neighboring countries. The US was unable to eliminate terrorism, because terrorism was only a secondary goal in this war. The first goal was to gain control of the oil, an aim from which the US will never back away."

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